

Christine G. Baxter

3039 W. Cypress St.
Phoenix, AZ 85009-2542
602-233-1454

4620 '99 APR -7 110:39

March 29, 1999

Dockets Management Branch
Food & Drug Administration
Dept. of Health & Human Services
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, Maryland 29857

RE: DOCKET #98P-0203/CP

Dear FDA Committee Members:

I am writing to ask you to please grant the petition filed under *docket #98P-0203/CP* that will ban forced molting of hens in the poultry industry. As a concerned citizen, I appeal to you not only on humane grounds of what it does to the hens, but especially due to health concerns. Forced molting increases the spread of Salmonella Enteritidis infection. We are fast approaching an age where antibiotic resistant bacteria are becoming the rule rather than the exception. Food borne illnesses are becoming more and more fatal and difficult to treat and prevent. By ending forced molting in the poultry industry, there will be less illness and less chance of food borne illness reaching the food eating public.

I never realized that forced starvation of animals could or would be allowed in any industry in a civilized country. The fact that this practice contributes to disease really disturbs me. I am hoping that the FDA, so long a watch dog for the safety of the American people, will make the sensible and sane choice to grant the petition filed under docket #98P-0203/CP. Please do so.

Sincerely,


Christine G. Baxter

98P-0203

C 775

Christine G. Baxter
3039 W. Cypress St.
Phoenix, AZ 85009-2542



**Dockets Management Branch
Food & Drug Administration
Dept. of Health & Human Services
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23
Rockville, Maryland 29857**

20832/172A

